

## CLAIMS

### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for effecting straight-through-processing of trades executed  
5 between a customer and a dealer, the system comprising:
  - a trade execution system including one or more computer systems capable of  
generating a trade order and executing a block trade between the customer and the dealer based  
on the trade order wherein the trade order includes a pre-allocation of customer accounts, the  
trade execution system in communication with one or more customer computer systems and  
10 dealer computer systems having software operable thereon for permitting communication of  
trading data through the trade execution system;
  - an account database for storing one or more account information records that are  
accessible by the trade execution system, the account information records being associated with  
one or more settlement instruction sets; and
  - 15 wherein the trade execution system is operative with programming to:
    - store a block trade record including details of the block trade executed by  
the customer and the dealer;
    - generate an allocated trade record for each of the account allocations  
received from the customer computer system, each of the allocated trade records being  
20 associated with the block trade record;
    - receive an indication from the dealer computer system that the allocated  
trade records are confirmed;
    - enrich the allocated trade records by incorporating one of the settlement  
instruction sets into each of the allocated trade records; and

transmit each of the enriched allocated trade records to an appropriate clearing institution.

2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a trade history database wherein the block trade records and allocated trade records are stored, the block trade records and allocated trade records being accessible by the customer computer and dealer computer systems such that the customer and dealer can view summary reports.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein programming operative on the trade execution system is server-based programming that operates in conjunction with programming on the customer computer system and dealer computer system which is client-based programming to achieve a client-server environment.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the server-based programming provides core trading, confirmation and settlement functionality and the client-based programming provides graphical interfaces viewable on the customer computer system and dealer computer system to enable the customer and dealer to interact with the server-based programming of the trade execution system.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the graphical interfaces enable the customer to generate trade inquiries and transmit the trade inquiries to one or more dealers.

6. The system of claim 4, wherein the graphical interfaces enable the dealer to receive the trade inquiries and generate firm prices in response to the trade inquiries and transmit firm prices to the customer.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the programming operable on the trade execution system includes an account management module for permitting the customer to manage the customer's account records, a back office management module for permitting the

customer and the dealer to access current and historical trade details and create and generate trade history reports, and an electronic trading module for effecting trades between the customer and the dealer.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the trade execution system includes at
- 5 least an electronic trading module to:
- receive customer-initiated trade inquiries including pre-allocation of sub-accounts directed to one or more dealers;
  - transmit the customer-initiated trade inquiries to the dealer computer system of
  - 10 the one or more dealers;
  - receive a trade price from at least one of the dealer computer systems;
  - transmit the trade price to the customer computer system;
  - receive from the customer computer system an indication that the trade price is
  - accepted; and
  - execute a block trade at the accepted trade price.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the indication is a click of a graphical
- 15 button.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the trade execution system includes at
- least an electronic trading module to:
- receive dealer-initiated trade inquiries, including at least the type of financial
  - 20 instruments to be traded, the price, and settlement details, directed to one or more customers;
  - transmit the dealer-initiated trade inquiries to the customer computer system of
  - the one or more customers;

receive from at least one of the customer computer systems an indication that the  
trade price is accepted; and

execute a block trade at the accepted trade price.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic trade system is further  
5 operable with programming to generate an electronic trade confirmation for each of the allocated  
trade records.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the electronic trade confirmation  
includes at least trade details associated with the allocated trade record and a settlement  
instruction set.

10 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the electronic trade confirmation meets  
applicable government regulations.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the electronic trade confirmation is  
configured to meet Rule 10b-10 of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic trade system is further  
15 operable with programming to:  
receive block trade details corresponding to a trade executed by the customer and  
dealer.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the trade is executed via telephone.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the trade is executed via an alternate  
20 trading system.

19. An electronic trading system for effecting and clearing trades between  
customers and dealers comprising:

a processing system including one or more servers capable of communication via a network;

an account database capable of communication with the processing system via the network, the account database configured to store account information for each of the customers, each of the sub-accounts being mapped to a corresponding set of settlement instructions; and

a trade history database for storing details of trades effected and cleared on the electronic trading system;

wherein the processing system is operative with a trade execution module to process trades between a customer and a dealer, and wherein the processing system is further operative with an account management module to permit customers to make sub-account allocations of the trades, the processing system generating one or more trade tickets for each sub-account allocation and, in response to an acceptance indication received from a dealer, enriching the trade tickets with settlement instructions stored in the account database, the processing system generating an electronic confirmation in accordance with government regulations and presenting the electronic confirmation to the customer and dealer.

20. A method of electronically presenting a dealer axe to one or more selected customers, the method comprising:

initiating an axe generation module;

inputting axe details into an interface provided by the axe generation module;

generating an electronic axe trade ticket wherein the axe trade ticket is actionable by the customers for a quantity up to a total axe quantity or only for the total axe quantity;

transmitting the electronic axe trade ticket to the one or more selected customers;

receiving an indication from at least one of the selected customers that the axe details in the electronic axe are acceptable.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the axe generation module is triggered by an action of the customer.

5 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the action of the customer is the cancellation of a dealer price received in response to a customer-initiated trade inquiry.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the axe generation module is initiated by an action of the dealer.

24. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

10 receiving the indication that the axe details in the electronic axe are acceptable;

executing an axe trade based on the axe details;

receiving an allocation from the customer for the axe trade;

generating electronic trade tickets for each allocation of the axe trade;

enriching the electronic trade tickets with settlement instructions; and

15 generating an electronic confirmation.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the electronic confirmation conforms to SEC Rule 10b-10.

26. A method for incorporating a settlement instruction set from an account information record into a trade record storing details of a trade, the method comprising:

20 detecting a first indicia of the trade; and

accessing the appropriate account information record and determining the appropriate settlement instruction set using the first indicia.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising:

detecting a second indicia of the trade if the appropriate settlement instruction set cannot be determined using the first indicia; and

accessing the appropriate account information record and determining the appropriate settlement instruction set using the first indicia and the second indicia.

5           28.     A method of validating a plurality of settlement instruction sets stored on an account database, the method comprising:

comparing information stored in the plurality of settlement instruction sets with a first information database;

10           determining whether an error in one or more of the settlement instruction sets exists; and

reporting the error to the appropriate party.

29.     The method of claim 28, wherein the first information database is a SWIFT BIC database.

15           30.     The method of claim 28, wherein the first information database is a Euroclear code directory.

31.     The method of claim 28, further comprising performing field level validation of information stored in the plurality of settlement instruction sets.

20           32.     The method of claim 31, wherein the step of performing field level validation comprises comparing the number of characters stored in a field to a known correct number of characters.